

Message Text

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R 130050Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MMOL, LY, UR, RP, XF

SUBJECT: ALLEGED LIBYAN STOCKPILE OF SOVIET MILITARY

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EQUIPMENT

REF: A. MANILA 11804 (NOTAL) B. CAIRO 10583 (NOTAL)

1. MENA REPORT REFERRED TO BY PRESIDENT MARCOS (REF A) APPEARS TO REPEAT STORIES APPEARING IN EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 6 OF SOVIET BASES AND STOCKPILES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN LIBYA. AS REPORTED BY CAIRO (REF B) NEWS REPORTS CLAIMED THAT "SOVIETS HAVE ESTABLISHED AIR AND NAVAL FACILITIES IN MAJOR CITIES AND SET UP HUGE MUNITIONS DUMPS FAR FROM POPULATION CENTERS, UNDER SOVIET CONTROL. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SUCH CLAIMS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT LIBYAN NATIONALISM AND SUSPICION OF SOVIETS WOULD INHIBIT SUCH A RELATIONSHIP. CAIRO NEWS REPORTS WENT ON TO CLAIM LARGE SCALE SOVIET WEAPONS DELIVERIES TO LIBYA. WHILE TRUE IN GENERAL, DELIVERIES HAVE STRETCHED OVER TWO YEARS AND ARE NOT A RECENT DEVELOPMENT.

2. FOR MANILA: YOU MAY INFORM PRESIDENT MARCOS THAT THE LIBYANS HAVE ACQUIRED A LARGE ARSENAL OF SOPHISTICATED

MILITARY EQUIPMENT AS RESULT OF 1974 SALES AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS FOR ABOUT 800 MILLION DOLLARS. THESE PLANES, TANKS, TRUCKS, HEAVY ARTILLERY, ETC., CLEARLY EXCEED LIBYA'S OWN NEEDS OR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE. THE LARG HAS MADE SOME OF THIS AVAILABLE TO SELECT GROUPS, E.G. POLISARIO IN SAHARA, PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, REBELS IN SUDAN. LESS SOPHISTICATED BUT LETHAL ITEMS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO MANY MORE GROUPS IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA PRIMARILY BUT NOT LIMITED TO THOSE CLAIMING TO REPRESENT "LIBERATION FORCES". USG AWARE THAT LARG HAS SUPPORTED MUSLIM GROUPS OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES FOR SEVERAL YEARS. USG AGREES WITH MARCOS' CONCERN THAT ACCUMULATING STORES OF SOVIET-MADE EQUIPMENT HAVE INCREASED LARG CAPABILITY FOR TROUBLEMAKING BUT, IN VIEW HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED NATURE OF MAJOR SOVIET ITEMS, WE DOUBT THAT LIBYAN CAPABILITY TO ASSIST MNLF HAS APPRECIABLY INCREASED IN REALISTIC TERMS BEYOND WHAT LARG COULD HAVE DONE ANYWAY. FOR INFORMATION OF EMBASSY, DEPARTMENT IS SENDING BY SEPTTEL ANALYSIS OF LARG FOREIGN POLICY
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OBJECTIVES AND ITS RECORD OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES WHICH DEMONSTRATES RELATIVELY LOW RANKING OF PHILIPPINES AMONG LARG PRIORITIES FOR INTERFERENCE AND FROM WHICH EMBASSY MAY DRAW ORALLY IN PRESENTATION. NOTE THAT INVOLVEMENT IN JULY 1976 COUP ATTEMPT IN SUDAN SHOULD BE ADDED. KISSINGER

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To: MANILA CAIRO TRIPOLI MULTIPLE
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